March 17, 2020

Dear Theater Management,

Lewis and Clark Public Health is working overtime to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community. At this time, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and Lewis and Clark Public Health is to avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people and practice social distancing, which is defined as avoiding mass gatherings and keeping at least 6 feet between individuals. These aggressive efforts will help to limit the spread of the disease.

Because of these national and state guidelines, Lewis and Clark Public Health recommends that theaters consider closing. If your facility decides to stay open, we expect you to follow the guidance below. These guidelines are subject to change based on the COVID-19 status in our community, state, and nation.

- Screen staff and public for illness and promptly send home anyone with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), even if they are mild.
- Allow no more than 10 people total to gather in the same room or other confined space.
- Practice social distancing. Maintain a distance of 6 feet between everyone on the premises.
- Sanitize between each showing, especially hard surfaces that many hands touch.
- Ensure good hand hygiene throughout the day. Staff and public should wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Anyone over age 65 is considered at higher risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. This population should not be working or attending showings your facility at this time.

The situation is changing rapidly, and these directions are subject to change. We appreciate your partnership in keeping our community safe and healthy from this novel coronavirus.

Please refer to the CDC website for more information about what childcare facilities can do: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html

Sincerely,

Drenda Niemann, MPA, CPH
Health Officer
Lewis and Clark Public Health
1930 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
406-457-8910

*Our mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents*